



The

GARzette



The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

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www.GARS.org



GARS January Exhibition of the
Technical aspects of Amateur Radio
Held at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds



**Don't forget to support our
advertisers at the back of the
GARzette.**

**GARS Meeting: Ribbit, a new digital texting mode for VHF/UHF – Pierre Deliou W4CKX
Tuesday March 14, 2023 at 7:00 PM**



President's Message

From the President...



2023 GARS Club Officer Elections – Thanks to everyone for re-electing those running again, and thanks for voting in our newest officer, Alex Kowalchuk (AK4AM). Please welcome him at the meeting. I know he will do well serving us all.

Your 2023 GARS officers:

- President – Joe Biddle (AD4PZ)
- Vice President – Alex Kowalchuk (AK4AM)
- Secretary – Bill Hawkins (WR1TR)
- Treasurer – Pam Meridy (WB1AKQ)
- Program – Kevin Scott (K4GTR)

Coming up:

HamCram March 25th & 26th – Make sure anyone who you know that wishes to get their Ham license, to contact the GARS Ham Cram group for a weekend of informative license preparation and testing.

Fox Hunt May 13th – Keep an eye out for a local Fox Hunt to be put on in the local area. We are planning to have a program at our GARS General meeting on Direction Finding with tips and tricks of finding that little...hidden transmitter. More details to come.



Fund Raiser – **Dog Show – March 29th – April 2nd** - This is our annual fund raiser for us and the ARES folks. Please volunteer to have some fun and help us out. As you can see, the tasks are not too difficult. Please use the sign-up sheet on gars.org or click here [Dog Show Sign-up](#).

Shortly after the fund raiser, we'll be entering into the **Georgia QSO Party contest on April 8th and 9th**. This year we will operate out of Fire Station #31 on Collins Hill Road. Look for more information on this event and how you can join the fun.

Memorial Day Parade May 29th – This is always a fun and rewarding event and an important one as well. As we gather, sort, stage and execute this parade, we ensure the parade participants and spectators have a fun and exciting parade experience. Soon we will start placing information about this and how to sign up for this effort.

Stay Safe and keep on RF'ing.

73,

Joe Biddle, AD4PZ

Club President

GARS Repeaters and Other Communications

<p><u>2 Meter Repeaters</u></p> <p>147.075(+) MHz Tone 82.5 147.255(+) MHz Tone 107.2</p> <p><u>1.25 Meter Repeater</u></p> <p>224.580(-) MHz Tone 100.0, 1.6 MHz Offset</p> <p><u>70 Cm Repeaters</u></p> <p>444.525(+) MHz Tone 82.5 442.100(+) MHz Tone 100 442.325(+) MHz Tone 100</p>	<p><u>6 Meter Repeater</u></p> <p>53.110 (-1 MHz) No Tone (Offline for Maintenance)</p> <p>Other Resources:</p> <p><u>APRS</u></p> <p>144.390 -- 1200 Baud W4GR</p> <p><u>D-STAR (WD4STR)</u></p> <p>145.060 + (1.4 MHz) 440.550 + (5 MHz)</p>	<p>6M Currently down</p> <p>147.075 Operational in Snellville</p> <p>147.255 Operational in Snellville</p> <p>224.580 Operational in Grayson</p> <p>442.100 Operational at Goshen Springs</p> <p>442.325 Operational in Buford</p> <p>444.525 Operational in Snellville</p> <p>Link remote receivers being added</p>
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Notable Web Links

Ham Radio Glossary: <https://noji.com/hamradio/glossary.php> a very comprehensive listing provided by Noji Ratzlaff KNØJI. On his site there is also a lot of information about getting started in ham radio.

Need Help – Let GARS Elmers answer your questions

Send an email to elmers@gars.org with the subject listing the area (like Antennas, Repeaters, Digital, DMR etc.) of your query to get to GARS Elmer volunteers.

The *GARzette* is the official monthly newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by e-mail to editor@gars.org. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via e-mail to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the Amateur Radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other Amateur Radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and *The GARzette*.

The GARzette is published each month with the assistance of Karen KI4HPP and Kyle W4KDA who print copies for distribution at meetings, etc. and Dave Bruse, W4DTR, who distributes the newsletter electronically.

Deadline for submissions is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional information view our Website at: <http://www.gars.org> [PS— Articles to publish in the *GARzette*, either written by GARS members or published elsewhere, are always welcome. —Ed.]

Newsletter Email: editor@gars.org Editor: Bob Hoffmann, K4CQO

GARS Personalized Mugs for sale – Bits Print and Press



**Jolie
Dellaneve-
Brown,
KO4AHI**



mailto:bitsprintandpress@gmail.com

GARS Meetings & Workshops

GARS Meetings and Workshops are held in-person at the EAA 690 Hangar, 690 Airport Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30046.

Meetings and Workshops are OPEN to all, feel free to share your invite with others.

GARS Meetings Schedule (second Tuesday @ 7:00 PM): (these are the presentations)

- March 14, 2023 – Ribbit, a new digital texting mode for VHF/UHF – Pierre Deliou W4CKX
- April 11, 2023 – Pi-Star DMR Hot Spot – Mark Prichard KN2TOD
- May 9, 2023 – Fox Hunt presentation – Jim Sorenson KA4IIA & Joe Biddle AD4PZ
- June 13, 2023 – Ice Cream Social – Harbins Park

Workshop Schedule (third Tuesday @ 7:00 PM): (these are the Hand-on Workshops)

- March 21, 2023 – Ribbit, a new digital texting mode for VHF/UHF – Pierre Deliou W4CKX
- April 18, 2023 - Pi-Star DMR Hot Spot - Mark Prichard KN2TOD
- May 16, 2023 – Fox Hunt Post Mortem
- June 20, 2023 – Field Day – Check cables, antennas, network logging laptops, etc.

GARS Meeting – March 14, 2023

Ribbit, a new digital texting mode for VHF/UHF – Pierre Deliou W4CKX



Pierre lives right here in Gwinnett Co and is the creator of Ribbit which is a new Digital Messaging mode for VHF/UHF communications for recreational and emergency use. Ribbit leverages the computing power of a smart phone to increase the capabilities of any Handy Talkie

without requiring any additional hardware. Double the speed of APRS and without any cables. Simply audio couple your HT to your cell phone. More info at, <https://www.ribbitradio.org/>

GARS Workshop – March 21, 2023

Ribbit, a new digital texting mode for VHF/UHF

The workshop is a hands-on interactive meeting to further explain the Ribbit operations. There will be a working Ribbit system to work with.

GARS Happenings

20 Years ago in the March 2002 GARzette:

- Colin, KG4QGD, generated his first GARzette as the editor
- There were FCC rule changes noted that affect international emergency communications
- Stan Edwards, WA4DYD, talked about what was done and need for ARES communication at a Red Cross location
- GARS listed the groups activities that it sponsors / participates in and asks for members support

You can always browse the GARzette archive at <http://www.gars.org/newsletters>. 73, Bob, K4CQO, GARzette Editor

[Health and Wellbeing](#) – Sandy Jackson, KJ4DRO

Look for this resource on [Email \(https://gars.org/contact/\)](mailto:https://gars.org/contact/) and use it as a means to convey information about a GARS family member or Silent Key notification.

Net Managers Corner

Monday Night 2 Meter “Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net”

GARS NEEDS MEMBERS TO SERVE AS NET CONTROL STATIONS!

GARS is a great Amateur Radio service club with the membership and awards to prove it. Our club is very busy and active, and we use the Monday night net to get timely information out to our members. Weekly participation is needed to make our net function well. There is only a small group of very dedicated people who make the net happen each week, and we need more members to volunteer to serve as Net Control Stations (NCS) on a rotating basis.

Out of almost 300 members, there are only seven operators who serve as the NCS for the GARS net every Monday night. In no particular order, they are:

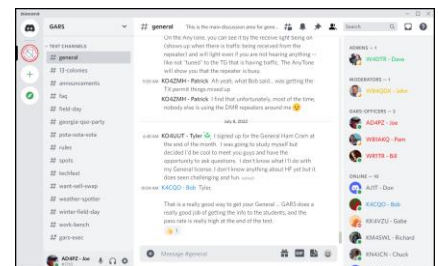
Ray – N4GYN David – KA4KKF Kevin – W4KIB Fisher – W4LON Chuck – KK4TKJ

As GARS Net Manager (Chuck KK4TKJ), I would like to have more volunteers to fill NCS positions. I do plan and post the schedule months in advance. Any conditions will be accommodated that you as a rotating NCS need to place on the scheduling of your duties. If your plans change, I can make adjustments for the schedule to work, and I will make those changes happen as soon as I am notified of a problem. As Net Manager, I also send out reminders each week to let the NCS scheduled know he or she is NCS for the next Monday night net. In short, serving as a rotating NCS is a small duty but a great contribution to the club. The “Want, Swap, Sell Information Net” begins promptly at 19:30 every Monday night and runs about 30 minutes. As a scheduled NCS, you will request the assistance of a volunteer alternate NCS each time you have Net Control. Your simple duties will be to tune in to the GARS repeater, read the script, take a few notes and forward the information to me for record keeping.

Please lend a hand and contact (Chuck) via [Email \(https://gars.org/contact/\)](mailto:https://gars.org/contact/) to help support the effort that makes GARS the great club that it is. See you on the Nets!

***** We have recently lost two of our Net Control Stations. We need more stations. It only takes about a half an hour of your time every 4 to 8 weeks depending on the number of Net Control Stations. Please volunteer. The script is on the GARS web site and can provide a MS Excel spreadsheet for logging. *****

Don't forget about our Discord utility for GARS announcements, news, activity spotting and more. See <http://www.gars.org> top of the home page. This is a sample of Discord. →





Who's Ready to Party!

As in GA QSO Party? Dallas N4DDM has stepped up to be the GARS GA QSO Party Chairman.

The GA QSO Party is April 8th and 9th for two 10 hour periods:

- Saturday – 1800Z (2:00 PM EDST) until 0359Z. (Midnight)
- Sunday – 1400Z (10:00 AM EDST) until 2359Z. (7:59 PM EDST)

John WB4QDX has secured Fire Station 31 for us to use. Station 31 is at [1601 Collins Hill Rd.](#) in Lawrenceville. This is the same fire station we used a few year back, but back then the rules allowed us 4 transmitters. This year we can only have 2 so the goal is to make it a friends and family event.

At the last GARS Workshop we looked at the GA QSO Rules and quickly jumped on operating as a two station multi-operator event. Here is a link to [the rest of the rules](#).

We also discussed interference caused by the harmonic relationship of 80, 40, 20, and 10m and frontend overload just by being so close physically. I see this as an opportunity to try various things to mitigate this in preparations for Field Day where we will jump from 2 stations to 8, plus a Get on the Air and VHF station. GARS has band pass filters. We could build common mode coax traps. I have paint can with 3, ¼ wave coax stubs I build we could test those. I also have a 10m 15m, 20m Triplexer Filter that we could see if it lives up to the 70dB isolation between those bands. We could try to keep the coax runs to the antennas separated by a few feet and have random loops in them except for where they cross the road. Earl AF4FG has built a ramp to protect the coax runs that cross the street.

We need your help to pull this off:

- CW Captain
- SSB Captain
 - The rules say we can have 2 stations, CW and/or SSB. They can't be on the same band AND mode at the same time. So the plan is to keep two stations going during the allotted time.
 - It's expected that the Station Captains will bring most of the gear and setup their station. Whatever they are missing they need to ask the membership to bring it.
 - We need somebody to network the two logging computers.
 - Somebody to take the logs and submit them to:
 - GA QSO Party gqplots@gaqsoparty.com
 - Logbook of the World
- I would like a 2nd set of eyes to go through the rules to find out how we can maximize our score/multipliers.
- The plan is to use 2 GARS End Feed antennas for transmit and a vertical receive antenna, so we need antenna crews to show up early and get this done.
- We also plan to use the GARS Band Pass filters to minimize interference between the two stations.
- We need a Food Captain, somebody to coordinate food for the operators.
- We need folks to bring: water, sodas, ice, and coffee.

Bring your friends and family. Here is the link to our [Google sign up sheet](#).

ARRL School Club Roundup

McConnell Middle School Beats Their Personal Best Score in Latest ARRL School Club Roundup

McConnell Middle School flew past their previous best score in only three days of contesting. The ARRL School Club Roundup scheduled to operate for the full week of February 13th, was shortened to three days at McConnell due to a scheduled 5 day weekend. Several things contributed to our success this time, including: 30 states contacted, 2 Canadian Provinces, 3 DX contacts, and 13 school clubs, for a total of 102 multipliers times 143 contacts (16,728 points).



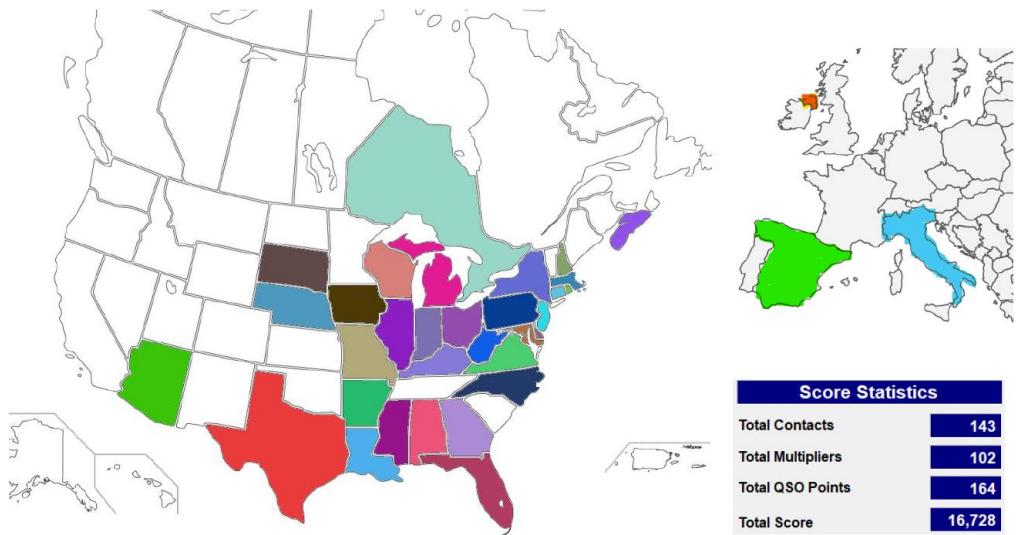
During the roundup our club was “spotted” twice, incurring a few “pileups,” that the kids handled very well. We were also able to take advantage of many POTA contacts. So much so, that we qualified for a Platinum Hunter Certificate (40 contacts).

Much thanks to David Adcock for spending some time at McConnel to get us setup to operate FT-8.

February 2023 ARRL School Club Roundup

- 30 States
- 2 Canadian territories
- 3 European countries

Using 2-meter voice contacts, and 20-meter voice digital contacts



Ralph Pickwick KJ4CNC
Jean Delashmit KM4FVO

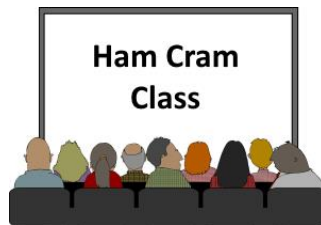
2023 GARS Officers

The following are the 2023 GARS Officers – with Alex being a new vice-President officer joining the officers from last year:

President	Joe Biddle	AD4PZ
Vice President	Alex Kowalchuk	AK4AM
Treasurer	Pam Meridy	WB4AKQ
Program Manger	Kevin Scott	K4GTR
Secretary	Bill Hawkins	WR1TR

Upcoming GARS Technician HamCram

GARS TECHNICIAN LICENSE HAM CRAM CLASS



WHEN: Saturday 3/25/2023 and Sunday 3/26/2023; 8:00am to 4:00pm each day, exams start at 4:00pm Sunday (this is a CLOSED exam session, only open to registered students of the class).

WHERE: EAA 690 Hangar, Gwinnett County Airport – Briscoe Field, [690 Airport Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30046](#)

MORE INFO: <http://gars.org>. Preregistration is REQUIRED. No Walk-ins accepted. This fee is non-refundable. Our \$25 fee covers the class and lunch both days, and the exam fee for the exam given Sunday at 4:00pm.

We will be using the [Ham Radio School Technician License Study Guide](#) for this class. Go to [our exam page for sample online tests towards the bottom](#).

QUESTIONS: Questions about the class or the exam session — [click here](#) to email the instructors.

Upcoming Georgia Statewide POTA

Mark the Date! On the weekend of **April 1-2, 2023**, there will be state-wide POTA activations of **all 50 Georgia State Parks!**



The idea is to enlist enough hams from all over to fan out across the state and activate 50 parks over the course of that one weekend.

We will have a website where details, signups, etc., will be posted. In the meantime, keep an eye on the event description and comments on the “Georgia Ham Radio Portable” Facebook page: [Georgia State Parks on the Air](#).

Upcoming Atlanta Hamfest



CQ de W1AW/4 Georgia

The use your call the event began on January 1st and ends on December 31st and is [already underway, see the ARRL site for details](#).

- For us in Georgia to use the W1AW/4 call they are:
 - Oct 11th at 0000Z until 2359 on the 17th of Oct

For more info here is a link to the [Google Sheet](#) that has a tab for every day of the 7-day event. You can quickly see what time slots have been taken and which ones are open.

73 Dallas N4DDM



YEAR of the
VOLUNTEERS

Another GArzette Archive Location

Past GARZette Issues Now Searchable On Internet Archive

By Dave Slotter, W3DJS

Thanks to a generous grant by the ARDC (Amateur Radio Digital Communications) foundation, the Internet Archive is now collecting a Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications. This is a library of materials directly related to amateur radio and early communications.

When I learned about this, I got in touch with Kay Savetz, K6KJN, the Internet Archive's program manager for special collections, and arranged to get all the past GARZette issues archived for preservation. Thanks to Kay for all her generous assistance in making this happen!

What are the benefits of having the GARZette issues available on the Internet Archive, you may ask? Easy! First, it makes the history of GARS more available to the amateur radio community than it was just existing on the GARS website, and second, the text of the articles in the GARZette are **now searchable**. This is a feature that the GARS website unfortunately does not provide. Finally, this offers a secondary backup to GARS history just "in case".

Hams and other interested parties may find the **1.3 gigabyte** collection of over **340** GARZettes going back to 1994 at archive.org/details/gwinnett-amateur-radio-society.

Additional content available in the Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications is available at archive.org/details/dlarc.

Origins of "Ham"

From ChatGPT

The term "ham" for amateur radio operator is believed to have originated in the early days of radio in the United States, around the beginning of the 20th century. At that time, wireless communication was still a new and experimental technology, and there were no formal regulations or licensing requirements for radio operators.

In this informal environment, some professional telegraph operators began to refer to the amateur radio operators, who were often perceived as less skilled or knowledgeable, as "ham-fisted" or simply "hams." The term "ham" was later adopted by amateur radio operators themselves as a way to identify with and embrace their amateur status.

Over time, the term "ham" has become a term of endearment and pride among amateur radio operators, who are known for their passion and dedication to the hobby. The term is now widely used in the amateur radio community and is recognized around the world as a shorthand for amateur radio operator.

Do You Have A.A.A.D.D. ?

Recently, I was diagnosed with A. A. A. D. D. - Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder.

This is how it manifests:

I decide to wash the car.

- * As I start toward the garage, I notice that there is mail on the hall table.
- * I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car.
- * I lay my car keys down on the table, put the junk mail in the trash can under the table, and notice that the trash can is full.
- * So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the trash first.
- * But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the trash anyway, I may as well pay the bills first.
- * I take my checkbook off the table, and see that there is only one check left
- * My extra checks are in my desk in the study, so I go to my desk where I find the can of Coke that I had been drinking.
- * I'm going to look for my checks, but first I need to push the Coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over. I see that the Coke is getting warm, and I decide I should put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold.
- * As I head toward the kitchen with the coke, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye -- they need to be watered.
- * I set the Coke down on the counter, and I discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning.
- * I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.
- * I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water and suddenly I spot the TV remote.
- * Someone left it on the kitchen table.
- * I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV, I will be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers.
- * I splash some water on the flowers, but most of it spills on the floor.
- * So, I set the remote back down on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill.
- * Then I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.
- * At the end of the day: the car isn't washed, the bills aren't paid, there is a warm can of Coke sitting on the counter, the flowers aren't watered, there is still only one check in my checkbook, I can't find the remote, I can't find my glasses, and I don't remember what I did with the car keys.
- * Then when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day long, and I'm really tired.
- * Don't laugh -- if this isn't you yet, your day is coming!

GROWING OLDER IS MANDATORY.

GROWING UP IS OPTIONAL

LAUGHING AT YOURSELF IS THERAPEUTIC!!!

Drake TR7 Transceiver - Part 4

Vintage Amateur Radio

de Bill Shadid, W9MXQ



This is the final (for now!) installment on the last of the Drake High Frequency Amateur Radio Transceivers and Accessories – the TR7 and TR7A. It is interesting to note that nearly to the end of the product life cycle of these radios, they both remained in production. Perhaps this is supported with the knowledge that with some small exceptions the TR7A was a TR7 with most options installed as standard equipment. The previous article in this series also included information on the never produced TR8 Transceiver. We pick up this discussion with information about the final disposition of TR7/TR7A production units and some information about at least one accessory that would have accompanied the TR8 to market. And then, a complete surprise. A surprise that could have been one further amateur radio opportunity.

Let us not forget where we left off – with Drakes last major players in the market.



Drake TR7A Transceiver – Equipped with All Options

Collection of W9MXQ



Drake TR7 Transceiver – Equipped with All Options

Collection of W9MXQ

The beautiful Drake TR7 – shown above as it began and in its final TR7A form – finally came to a rather inglorious end when Drake found itself with a very high number of both TR7's and TR7A's in inventory that were seemingly overtaken by the Japanese competition. According to John Loughmiller, KB9AT², the end came with TR7 and TR7A inventory stacked in every corner of the plant. Loughmiller further notes that total production of TR7 Transceivers was about 10,300 and the TR7A accounting for another 2,500, or so. Loughmiller noted that Drake, by that time, was making Satellite Downlink Receivers at a rate of 15,000 per month.

So, how did Drake dispose of these radios that by then were taking a lot of inventory space? According to Ray Grenier, K9KHA³, who at the time was leading sales and marketing for Milwaukee based, Amateur Electronic Supply (AES), the inventory was purchased by Terry Sterman, W9DIA, the founder and then owner of the AES stores. AES catalogs of the day show sales of both transceivers and all accessories for some time after this bulk purchase⁴.

One very nearly forgotten, never produced radio from Drake was the L85 Linear Amplifier. Based heavily on the L75 Linear Amplifier, the L85 was styled to match the TR8 Transceiver, in many ways. In other ways it seemed to be a product that could have stood on its own in terms of styling.



Drake L85 HF Linear Amplifier

Note the missing Plate Tune Knob – and presence of L7 / L75 Style Knobs on the Band Switch and Load Controls.

These were perhaps not the final planned style.

LA60P

This amplifier used a single 3-500z triode in the final amplifier that implied it was able to run about 600 to 700 watts output – just like the similarly equipped L75 Linear Amplifier. There was never any mention that I can find that indicated a closer to full power product such as an “L8” – in keeping with the L7 and L75 model numbers that matched the TR7, TR7A, and TR5 Transceivers.

It is interesting to note that the tank coil in the final amplifier of the L85 was not a round coil – it was wound as a square with four equal sides on an assembly of Phenolic sheet. This was a unique approach that allowed Drake to manufacture the coil without rather sophisticated coil winder tooling. My good friend, Bob, W9DYQ, fellow collector for most of our lives, (and proofreader of my articles) surmises that Drake used the square coil design as a fast way to fabricate a physically stable prototype. Bob may well have a point. His engineering development background earns him respect for understanding that process very well.



Drake L85 HF Linear Amplifier

This interior view shows the square wound tank coil. Was the convenience for making a prototype or a design to avoid coil winding tools?

LA60P

The L85 Linear Amplifier seems to be in a gray area of Drake design. The prototype shown here exists and so does at least one prototype of the TR8 Transceiver. But, even with the careful watching that I do for such things, I had missed the L85 until relatively recent times. To my way of thinking it did, in fact, match a lot of radios on the market and could well have stood alone as a single product to succeed the well-respected L7 and L75 products. Likely we will never know the answer to that thought.

We already know from a previous installment that Drake had nearly finished development of the significantly upgraded TR8 HF Transceiver. But, by that time it appears that Drake had lost interest in the idea of continuing in that market. Many of you reading this know of the successful line of shortwave receivers that Drake manufactured after TR7/TR7A production ceased. I refer to the Drake R8, R8A, and R8B Receivers. These were sophisticated designs that went further than the receivers in the excellent TR7, TR7A, and TR8 designs. (Not to be forgotten are the very capable R7 and R7A Receivers that were marketed at the same time as the TR7 and TR7A Transceivers.)

While not a topic at this time, Drake apparently wanted to exit the amateur radio market, but they were not ready to abandon world band radio receivers. Drake went on to produce some very fine receivers for the HF spectrum. These radios, however, did not match the styling concepts seemingly developed for the TR8 Transceiver.

Those world band receivers were led by the R8 series radios⁵. They were excellent performers. Unlike many such radios, these were competitive and could hold their own against the best available transceivers in the amateur radio market at the time. (Reference here is to receiver performance – the R8 was a receiver only.)



Drake R8B HF Communications Receiver

R. L. Drake Advertising Literature

Of interest to us is that somewhere in the life cycle of the R8 series radios, Drake made an engineering attempt to re-enter the amateur radio transmitter/transceiver market using the R8 Receiver as the basis. Enter here the T8 Transmitter – but keep in mind that this is my name assumption and not necessarily a model number released by Drake. Like the days of the T-4 and T-4B Reciter that could transceive with the R-4A and R-4B, respectively, the T8 would have become a transceiver with the R8 Receiver. (So, my naming convention it means that the prototype would have been a T8 or a T8X, depending on if it had its own VFO.

As far as we know, these pictures¹ show the prototype of the T8 Transmitter, or perhaps Transceive Adapter, for use with the R8, R8A, or R8B Receiver.



Drake R8A Receiver, Prototype T8 Transceiver, and TR7 PA Unit

LA60P

The picture above shows a production R8A Receiver with a Prototype T8 Transmitter to its right (center, above). The T8 is meant ultimately to match the R8 Series Receiver. The PA unit shown to the right was taken stock from a TR7 Transceiver but would have been incorporated into the T8 cabinet in production. Alas, this was never to be, But what a nice concept. Timing had to be roughly 1995 to 1997 since the receiver pictured here is the R8A, which started production in 1995 and ran until the R8B was introduced in 1997. It could, however, have been somewhat later.

It is nice to think about what could have been with Drake radios. Suffice it to say that I thoroughly enjoy the Drake TR-3 Transceiver, TR-4 and TR-4C Transceivers, B-Line and C-Line Separates, and the

TR7 and TR7A Transceivers (along with all the important accessories) here in the W9MXQ Collection. Drake was, and is, a high-water mark in American-Made Amateur Radio Equipment. But, gee, so are Collins, Hallicrafters, Hammarlund, National, and all the rest – other stories for another time!

As with the last installment about post 7-Line Drakes, I draw heavily on the established collection and documentation of a Norwegian collector and his connections with former Drake staff¹.

A special thanks go to Bob, W9DYQ, for his proof reading. Remember that I am open to questions and comments at my email address, W9MXQ@TWC.com.

Reference Notes:

1. Sindre Torp, LA6OP – who further credits Bill Frost, former Drake Service Manager. Mr. Torp is credited with his call sign, LA6OP, where applicable.
2. Reference: “A Family Affair – The R. L. Drake Story” John Loughmiller, KB9AT, © 2000
3. Ray Grenier, K9KHA³, interview with W9MXQ in November of 2019, and other occasions. This writer is proud to call Ray a friend.
4. Source is a W9MXQ collection of Amateur Electronic Supply catalogs for the period.
5. There were less costly (and lower level performance equipped) radios in the “8” line of radios. Those included the SW8, for instance. Drake, at the time, also produced short wave receivers under contract to others – some of which were totally different design concepts.

W9MXQ



GARS Membership

New Members List in February

Steven Delaney ()
 Alison Delaney
 Walter Derryberry (WD4NET)
 Amy Snow
 Mark Vogt (KQ4GEL)
 Kathleen Vogt
 Tim Vogt
 William Worona (KQ4AGI)

New Members: 8

**Total Members as of
 March 1, 2023
 374**

Join GARS members for our weekly
 breakfast gathering at
 7:30 AM most Saturdays
 Now at
 Cracker Barrel Restaurant
 75 Celebration Dr.
 Suwanee, GA 30024

Birthdays in March

Deidra Atkin
 Rick Baker (KO4RWY)
 Jonathan Baldwin (N4BRJ)
 Chris Beals (KO4QBC)
 Ryan Bibby (KN4RQL)
 John Bojack (N0HRM)
 Dave Bruse (W4DTR)
 Steven Delaney
 Walter Derryberry (WD4NET)
 Peggy Edwards (KQ4EDI)
 Jim Hawkins (KF4RX)
 Suzanna Hoefler
 Jerry Hundley (K4IT)
 Kevin Igarashi-Ball (W4KIB)
 Kevin Jenkins (KQ4ERM)
 Skip Kazmarek (K4EAK)
 Bill Kincheloe (KM4DRT)
 Robert Lopez (KN4NSP)
 Mary Marlowe
 Don Martini (KM4BWT)
 Kyle Scott (KN4UWV)
 Madai Similao
 Mike Smith (KK4KHS)
 Tom Tcimpidis (K6TGT)
 Carolyn Thigpen (KD4ZPM)
 Joel Thomas (KK4OFE)
 Brent Woodman (N2BAB)
 Ed Woodrick (WA4YIH)

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Membership Chair: Karen Albritton, KI4HPP

Committee Members: Dave Bruse, W4DTR

ARRL MEMBERSHIP

To update your ARRL membership information, please visit their website - <http://www.arrl.org>.

MAINTAIN YOUR LICENSE

You can update your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free - <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/universal-licensing-system>. License renewal is subject to the \$35 FCC fee.



Donating to GARS

Your GARS donation can be used for a certain purpose by donating to one of these funds:

- GARS SK Memorial Fund for Education
- (to remember and honor Silent Keys);
- GARS Scholarship Fund (Administered by the ARRL for awarding scholarships);
- GARS General Fund (any club purpose).

GARS has joined these rewards programs (a portion of every purchase you make through these merchants may be donated to GARS):

- Kroger Community Rewards program.

For more information on how to sign up for these rewards programs, or to donate to GARS, visit

<http://gars.org/gars/donations-to-the-club>

GARS on Social Media



Discord Request:

<http://gars.org/discord>



Groups.io:

<http://gars.org/groups.io>



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<http://gars.org/youtube>

GARS Mail Address:

GARS
P.O. Box 492531
Lawrenceville, GA 30049

Officers



Joe Biddle, President AD4PZ



Alex Kowalchuk, Vice President AK4AM



Bill Hawkins, Secretary WR1TR



Pam Meridy, Treasurer WB1AKQ



Kevin Scott, Program Manager K4GTR

Managers and Committee Chairs



Karen Albritton, Membership Chair KI4HPP



Dave Bruse, VE Team Leader W4DTR



David Adcock, Webmaster, Field Day Chair, TechFest Chair KA4KKF



Ralph Pickwick, Education Chair KJ4CNC



Earl Whatley, Apparel Manager AF4FG



Bob Hoffmann, GARzette Editor K4CQO



Eddie Foust, Repeater Chair WD4JEM



Mike Weathers, WAS / DXCC QSL Card Checker and Historian ND4V



Chuck McCord, Net Manager KK4TKJ



Steve Back, Technical / RFI Advisor WB2OGY



Dallas Mellichamp, Workshop Leader N4DDM



Don Stewart, Elmer Manager KW4AL



Sandy Jackson, Health and Wellbeing KJ4DRO



Kevin Igarashi-Ball, Multimedia Chair W4KIB



Dallas Mellichamp, Georgia QSO Chair N4DDM

Open Winter Field Day Chair

Directors and Trustees



John Davis, WB4QDX



Rick Cobb, N4XYX



Kyle Albritton, W4KDA



Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN W4GR Trustee

GARS Meeting Minutes

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society – MEETING MINUTES, 2/14/2023

There were 41 in-person attendees

President Joe Biddle (AD4PZ) opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and closed the meeting at approximately 8:45 p.m.

New hams and visitors: Joe (AD4PZ)

- First time visitors recognized. Blain (KO4USS) and Kathy (KO4USR), Bill (KQ4AGI), Alberto (AK4RW)

Treasurer Report: Joe (Ad4PZ)

Apparel: Earl (AF4FG) has orders ready to pick up.

Education: Ralph (KJ4CNC)

- School club roundup – The record has already been beaten the first two days. Roundup ends tomorrow for McConnell Middle School. Hanging out around 14250 to 14300 and on 2 meters at 146.400
- Two Ham Crams are coming up. One tech and one general. Tech March 25-26, General April 29-30.

VE Team: Dave (W4DTR)

- This months exam session we had 3 new techs and 4 upgrades to general.
- Techfest results were 8 new techs, 1 new general, 3 upgrades to General and 1 upgrade to Extra.

Programs: Kevin (K4GTR)

- March – Ribbit – digital text mode for UHF/VHF
- April - PiStar DMR hotspots
- May – The GARS repeaters
- June – Ice cream social pre-Field Day
- Check the web site for all scheduled programs.

Workshop: Dallas (N4DDM)

- Workshops mirror the monthly program.

Techfest: David (KA4KKF)

- It went well. 316 attended.
- The date is Jan 13, 2024
- Chili cookoff winners are on the website.

Dog Show: Ralph (KJ4CNC)

- March 29 – April 2nd.
- We need 10 to 16 on site at all times to manage traffic and parking. We do 4 or 8 hour shifts.
- Both ARES and GARS will be working the show.

Other: Joe (AD4PZ)

- Field day is coming in June.
- GARS 50th birthday this year, We man have events at FD for that.
- Short valentine presentation by KN2TOD

Officer Elections: Earl (AK4FG) - Slate announced and vote taken with no additional nominees. Elected were:

- President: Joe Biddle (AD4PZ)
- Vice President: Alex Kowalchuk (AK4AM)
- Treasurer: Pam Meridy (WB1AKQ)
- Secretary: Bill Hawkins (WR1TR)
- Programs: Kevin Scott (K4GTR)

Program: ARES – Hal (W4IGE) and Larry Whitehead (AB4NX)

Minutes prepared by club secretary Bill Hawkins (WR1TR).

Workshop Minutes - February 21, 2023

Number in Attendance: 12

Workshop Topic: Year of the Volunteer – GARS Volunteers

Presenter: Dallas N4DDM

Brief Summary: For this Workshop we went through a list of Volunteer opportunities for GARS events.

- March 29th to April 2nd is our annual fund raiser Dog Show event.
 - Please signup on the [GARS website](#).
- April 8th - 9th the Georgia QSO Party.
 - Dallas N4DDM stepped up to be the chairman for this event.
 - John WB4QDX has secured the use of Fire Station 31 for the 2-day event.
 - We will operate as Multi Operator - Two Transmitters (M2X)
 - [GA QSO Party Rules](#)
- May 29th - Dacula Memorial Day Parade
 - Earl AF4FG is our Memorial Day Parade Chairman
- June 24th - 25th Field Day.
 - David KA4KKF is our Field Day Chairman

We discusses other events where we could try to get more members to get out and get on the radio with a focus on New Hams and those with only a Tech license. August - Rookie Roundup and December - 10 Meter Contest.



Events – GARS and others

ARRL CONTESTING INFO	HAMFEST CALENDAR
From ARRL Contest Calendar > For more information click the links <	[Please confirm the status of a Hamfest before making plans to attend]
2023 January 1 Straight Key Night 7 Kid's Day 7-8 RTTY Roundup 21-23 January VHF Contest February 13-17 School Club Roundup 18-19 International DX – CW March 4-5 DX Contest -- SSB April 16 Rookie Roundup – Phone May No planned contests June 3-4 International Digital Contest 10-12 June VHF 17 Kid's Day 24-25 Field Day July 8-9 IARU HF World Championship August 5-6 222 MHz and Up Dis Contest 19-20 10 GHz & Up – Round 1 20 Rookie Roundup – RTTY EME - 2.3 GHz & Up September 9-11 September VHF 16-17 EME - 2.3 GHz & Up – Rnd 2 9-10 10 GHz & Up – Wknd 1 October 29-29 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz 16-20 School Club Roundup EME - 50 to 1296 MHz November 4-6 Nov. Sweepstakes - CW 25-26 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz 18-20 Nov. Sweepstakes - Phone December 1-3 160 Meter 9-10 10 Meter 17 Rookie Roundup–CW	03/03/2023 - 03/04/2023 - BirmingHamfest, ARRL AL Section Convention Location: Trussville, AL Type: ARRL Convention Sponsor: Birmingham Amateur Radio Club Website: http://birminghamfest.org 03/17/2023 - 03/18/2023 - The 53rd Annual PARC Hamfest Location: Fort Walton Beach, FL Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Family Eye Care Website: http://w4zbb.org/w4zbborg/index.php?page=Hamfest 03/18/2023 - Stuart Hamfest Location: Stuart, FL Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Martin County Amateur Radio Association Website: http://www.stuarthamfest.com 03/18/2023 - ZAARC Tail Gate Location: Zephyrhills, FL Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: ZAARC Radio Club Website: http://zaarc.org 03/25/2023 - DeKalb County Amateur Radio Club Swap Meet Location: Fort Payne, AL Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: DeKalb County Amateur Radio Club Website: http://W4DGH.org/tailgate.htm 04/08/2023 - EPARS Tailgate Location: Dade City , FL Sponsor: East Pasco Amateur Radio Society, Inc. Website: http://eparsonline.org 04/15/2023 - Daleville Area Hamfest Location: Daleville , AL Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Daleville Area Amateur Radio Service Website: http://www.Daleville.US 04/15/2023 - TarcFest Location: Tampa, FL Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Tampa Amateur Radio Club Website: http://www.hamclub.org 04/22/2023 - Calhoun Hamfest Location: Resaca , GA Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Cherokee Capital Amateur Radio Society Website: http://www.k4woc.com 04/22/2023 - Mobile Amateur Radio Club (MARC) Hamfest Location: Mobile, AL Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Mobile Amateur Radio Club (MARC) Website: http://www.w4iax.com
For more information: http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar	For more information: http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar When searching by division, remember some states adjacent to GA are in different divisions: Southeastern: GA, AL, FL Delta: TN Roanoke: NC, SC



GARS Events Calendar for 2023		GARS Recurring Calendar	
TechFest Winter Field Day Spring Technician HamCram Dog Show Fundraiser Georgia QSO Party North metro area Fox Hunt Summer General HamCram Memorial Day Parade ARC/KARC Hamfest Field Day JOTA Fall Technician HamCram Maker Faire Stone Mt. Hamfest Holiday Party	January 14 2023 January 28-29 2023 March 25-26 2023 March 29-April 2 2023 April 8-9 2023 April 2023 April 29-30 2023 May 29 2023 June 3 2023 June 24-25 2023 October 2023 October 2023 TBD November 4-5 2023 December 2 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December) Monthly Club Meeting 690 Airport Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30046 • 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December) Monthly Workshop 690 Airport Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30046 • 2nd Sunday of the Month at 2 pm GARS Ham Exam Session 690 Airport Rd Lawrenceville, GA 30046 • Every Monday at 7:30 pm: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater • Every Monday at 8:30 pm: ARES Training on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater • Every Friday at 11:30 am, GARS Lunch at The 5 Spot • Every Saturday at 8:00 am GARS Breakfast at The 5 Spot 	

GARS CALENDAR FOR March 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
					11:30 AM Lunch at The 5 Spot	8:00 AM Breakfast at The 5 Spot
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	7:30 – 8:00 PM GARS 2M Net	7:00 PM GARS Exec Meeting			11:30 AM Lunch at The 5 Spot	8:00 AM Breakfast at The 5 Spot
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
2:00 PM GARS Ham Radio Exams, EAA 690 Hangar	7:30 – 8:00 PM GARS 2M Net	7:00 PM GARS Meeting EAA 690 Hangar			11:30 AM Lunch at The 5 Spot	8:00 AM Breakfast at The 5 Spot
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	7:30 – 8:00 PM GARS 2M Net	7:00 PM GARS Workshop Meeting EAA 690 Hangar			11:30 AM Lunch at The 5 Spot	8:00 AM Breakfast at The 5 Spot Technician HamCram EAA 690 Hangar
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Technician HamCram EAA 690 Hangar	7:30 – 8:00 PM GARS 2M Net		Dog Show Gwinnett Fairgrounds	Dog Show Gwinnett Fairgrounds	11:30 AM Lunch at The 5 Spot Dog Show Gwinnett Fairgrounds	



Local Ham Radio Exams & Meetings

GARS Ham Radio Exams

Second Sunday of the month

Doors open at 1:45pm, exams start promptly by 2:00pm

GARS VE-Team

VEC: W5YI-VEC

EAA 690 Hangar

690 Airport Rd

Lawrenceville, GA 30046

GARS VE Team Leaders

E-mail: exams@gars.org.



February 2022 Results

The GARS VE Team had another great exam session.

3 New Technicians

4 Upgraded to General

Special thanks to the Volunteer Examiners who made this exam session possible:

W4DTR - Dave (CVE)

WB4WTN - Bill

AF4FG - Earl

KM4SWL - Richard

WB2OGY - Steve

KK4TKJ - Chuck (Co-CVE)

KM4FMW - Donna

K4CQO - Bob

W4GOP - Nathan

NV4Q - Bill

Thanks & 73,

Dave Bruse, W4DTR (CVE)

GARS VE Team Leader

<https://gars.org/exams/>

Local Ham Radio Exams

In order to find an exam session near you, please visit

http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/. Contact the information in the listing for further information.



Local Ham Radio Meetings

In order to find a local Ham Radio Club meeting near you, please visit

<http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>. Contact the club for meeting information.





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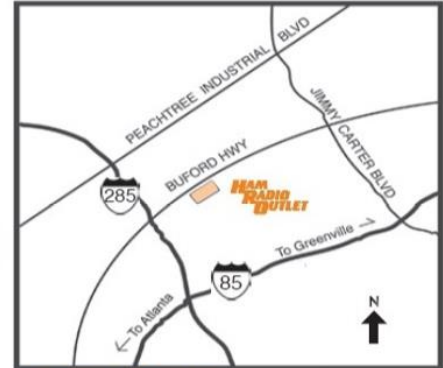


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